

Chatillon, George E.
[85-99 Cliff St.]

1926



GEORGE E. CHATILLON
PRESIDENT

A. J. CHATILLON,
SECRETARY

SOLE AGENTS
FOSTER BROS. & CHATILLON CO.
BUTCHERS KNIVES & TOOLS.

85 to 99 CLIFF STREET
NEW YORK

December 23rd 1926

American Numismatic Society
Broadway & 156 Street
New York City

SUBJECT:-

Gentlemen:

I would appreciate very much having you advise me in the enclosed envelop if there is any method by which tarnish can be removed from silver and minor coins without being detrimental to the value of the coin.

Is rubbing or dipping a coin permissable and if so what solution is to be used?

Any information you can give me on this subject will be greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,

George E. Chatillon
(Member) A

December 24, 1926

Mr. George E. Chatillon,
85-99 Cliff Street,
New York City

Dear Sir:

In reply to your favor of December 23rd, we clean our coins only when absolutely necessary for the reason that we expect the coins to be here for many years if not forever, and in the course of time they will have to be cleaned many times..

We generally try to remove superficial dirt and tarnish by placing them in a weak solution of warm water and ammonia. In individual cases where the tarnish or other discoloration is harder to remove, we increase the ammonia. The coins should then be thoroughly washed in clear water and carefully dried by warmth, as on a radiator. We avoid using any medium that requires rubbing and in drying the coins we try not to rub them.

Sometimes we use a solution of potassium cyanide-- a piece about the size of a golf ball in a quart of distilled water. The coins should then be quickly dipped into the solution one or more times according to necessity. We, however, do not advise this last method unless done by an expert.

We have heard that this aluminum or composition plate sold to house wives for cleaning silver is guaranteed not to take away any of the silver. We, however, have not used this method.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW:MB